



2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

General Media Guidelines and Policies

The League reminds media members that these are education-based activities and covering high school activities is different than covering college or professional athletes. Our courts, fields, rinks and fine arts halls are an extension of the classroom. It is a privilege, not a right, to cover a high school activities event in person. The League appreciates your time and attention given to promote high school activities. Your credential can be removed at any time for failure to follow the League Media Policies and Guidelines found on the League's website:

www.mshsl.org/media

These guidelines are for all media approved for League events during the school year:

- Be respectful to all around you, including fans, officials, coaches, student-participants, support staff, administrators and other members of the media.
- Do not distract those around you, including fans, officials, coaches, student-participants, support staff, administrators and other members of the media.
- Refrain from cheering while attending an event in an official capacity.
- Criticism of an official, coach, team, participant or school during a broadcast or written game summary is not permitted.
- Do not block the view of fans.
- Be mindful of your workspace and avoid taking up too much room. Make sure to collect any trash or belongings in your work area when you leave.
- Do not bring uncredentialed guests to the event with the expectation that they will receive free admission or privileges accorded to the media.
- Photographers should refer to the League's Media Policy Manual for guidelines on shooting policies.
- Media members are not allowed in team locker rooms.

Designated seating Each venue is unique. As such, press box or press row accommodations may not be available for every media member. Work with site administration and/or the League to determine accommodations.

Credentials When applicable, please make sure your League-issued credential is visible and always worn. Credentials may not be attached to a bag or on your hip.

Interviews Post-event interview sessions are held in designated zones and determined by site administration or League Staff. Please contact an onsite administrator upon arrival for further details.

Communication During the regular season, events are under local control. At the section levels, please communicate with Region Secretaries or their site administrators that you plan to attend an event. All media must be approved by the League prior to attending any postseason event.

Philosophy About 2 percent of high school athletes go on to compete at the Division I level. Most participants at the high school level compete for the fun, friendship and comradery involved in education-based opportunities. For some, the field, rink, court or performance hall is a place they find safety and belonging. As a media member, the League reminds you that these are kids. A reporter has the obligation to tell the story as he/she saw it, but how that story is presented can affect the learning process of the education-based activities they are covering. Be respectful and be responsible.

Thank you for your coverage of League activities.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Tim Leighton

MSHSL